

# HELP SAVE OUR LIBRARIES

## Funding for Pennsylvania Libraries in Jeopardy!

Because of the worsening economy, Pennsylvania is collecting less taxes while spending more for unemployment benefits, public assistance, and health care for the uninsured.

Governor Rendell's revised budget (if passed) will reduce the Public Library Subsidy by \$9,250,000 (12.2% less than this year). Since this appropriation goes to local libraries for operations, cutting it from \$75 million to \$66 million will inevitably lead to cutbacks in hours of operation, resources available, and personnel.

Senate Bill 850, which was passed by Senate Republicans but defeated in the Democratic House Appropriations Committee, would decimate library services through a cut of more than 53%. The passage of this bill would cause many Pennsylvania public libraries to permanently close their doors!

## WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING RIGHT NOW?

Library supporters should contact their State Senator, State Representative, and Governor Rendell.

## WHAT IS OUR MESSAGE?

### Level Funding for Pennsylvania Libraries

We are not seeking an increase, but simply the **level funding** necessary to sustain good quality library services for all Pennsylvanians (infants to senior citizens) who need these services now more than ever!

## THE FACTS

Library services amount to 3/10 of 1% of the entire state budget. Level funding library services means appropriating \$94.6 million out of a state budget that likely will be approximately \$29 billion.

Libraries are bursting at the seams serving the unemployed, their families, and thousands of Pennsylvanians whose library needs are greater now than ever before. The public library is the only place where free Internet access is available. State cuts will force libraries to close their doors to patrons who need these doors to be open more, not less!

Cuts will cost Pennsylvania millions in lost federal funds. Governor Rendell's plan will cost us \$1.9 million, and the Senate Republican plan \$3.8 million. This is our money, too! And it will end up in Idaho, Texas, and Massachusetts if these cuts are passed.

**LEVEL FUNDING IS CRUCIAL!!!** It will preserve good services for all library users and does not throw away valuable federal dollars.

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Personal letters and notes, personal visits, phone calls, and e-mails are necessary!

## Who are your legislators?

Go to

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>  
and type in your zip code, and it will tell you what you need to know.



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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